

# Five persons feared killed over battle to control oil-rich community

From Ann Godwin, Port Harcourt

**A**T least five persons have been feared killed in the Ogbogu community of Ogba Egbema Ndoni Local Council of Rivers State following serious gunshots by suspected assassins.

Reason for the killings was not yet known as at press time but investigations revealed that there was pandemonium in the area as people were seen fleeing the community for fear of being killed.

However, a youth leader in the area alleged that the incident would not be unconnected with the battle over who should represent the oil rich community during negotiations with multinational oil companies operating in the area.

Another Community source further disclosed that the hoodlums also det-

onated explosives at the residence of the President General, Egi Peoples Assembly, Mr. Oris Onyiri.

The explosive was said to have damaged a portion of his structure in the compound and also sent one of the President's relative to an early grave.

The community source said: "The hoodlums threw what sounded like grenade at the residence of Chief Onyiri. One of his relatives died from the incident."

He added: "Security men engaged the killers in a gun battle, killing one of them while the others escaped."

"This area has been overtaken by crisis over who would represent the oil rich community and I am afraid that that could be the essence of the killing," the source added.

He noted that about six persons have been killed in

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oil rich communities in the local council within the last one year in cult-related crises

The state Police Command confirmed the incident. Assistant Police Public Relations Officer, Grace Koko, said the Police was investigating the situation, adding that it was aware of the death.